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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0611  
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RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY  
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RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY  
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 2308  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 6095  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 7622  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2705  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 3642  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 3630  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

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SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - "BUY AMERICAN"  
PROVISIONS AND IRAQ

¶1. LEAD STORIES: Lead stories on Friday morning included Prime Minister Aso's remarks in the Diet on Thursday hinting at a possible review of the current GOJ postal privatization program centering on the separation of postal corporation-related services into four separate corporate entities.

¶2. "U.S. Must Not Unleash Protectionism Domino" The business-oriented Nikkei's editorial stated (2/6): "The enactment of the 'Buy American' clause would prompt more countries to conclude that Washington is tilting toward protectionism and to follow the U.S. lead in raising their import tariffs. The provisions run the risk of triggering a protectionist domino effect across the world. President Obama is responsible for persuading those calling for trade protection at home into giving up on the article."

¶3. "Protectionist Sentiment Must Be Contained" The liberal Tokyo Shimbun editorialized (2/6): "Trade protectionism is wrong in that it not only hurts trade partners but also weaken the very foundation of domestic industries in the long run. There is no question that the global economy would be pushed into a tight corner if the U.S. succumbs to mounting protectionism sentiment in the name of protecting American industries and jobs."

¶4. "Coalition Backing Prime Minister Triumphant" On the apparent victory of the coalition of parties supporting Prime Minister Maliki in the recent nationwide local elections in Iraq, a correspondent for the liberal Mainichi wrote from Cairo (2/6): "Given that the election results pointing to the apparent defeat of a Shiite party that dominated Iraq's local politics for years demonstrate a mounting anti-Iranian mood among Iraqi voters, Tehran must have been hit hard by the

poll results. For the U.S., which has been wary about the growing Iranian clout in Iraq, the outcome appears to be a welcome development in view of President Obama's policy of swiftly withdrawing U.S. troops."

ZUMWALT